

History Inspired Crafts: Political Buttons

Buttons have long been used by people who want others to know what they believe in, like in the 1960s, when civil rights workers used buttons to express their opinions.

Sometimes buttons advertise for a particular political candidate. Other times they make a statement that shows support or dislike for a belief, law, or action such as environmentalism, gun control, or animal rights.

Suggested Activity: Make a Statement Button

You Will Need:

- Button template
- Cardboard
- Safety pin (with flat back)
- Regular glue
- Hot glue
- Scissors
- Markers, colored pencils, etc.

Step 1: Pick a button template and use regular glue to glue it onto the cardboard and cut it out.

Step 2: Decorate the button using one of the following prompts:

- Create a civil rights button focusing on a group that is significant to you.
- Create a button expressing your feelings about something you think is important.
- Show your pride in supporting a specific organization.

Step 3: Use the hot glue to affix the safety pin to the back center of your button.

Step 4: Wear your button to show others what you stand for!



Civil rights button, 1960s. Courtesy of KHS.



